

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7049

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TAGS: PDIP, SREF, CA, VN, VS
SUBJ: CANADIAN-VIETNAMESE TALKS ON IMMIGRATION

REFS: (A) HONG KONG 6507 (B) HONG KONG 6301 (C) HONG KONG 3665

SUMMARY: CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS RETURNING FROM DISCUSSIONS IN HANOI REPORTED LITTLE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES WITH SRV OVER IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES AND GENERALLY BELIEVE NO HEADWAY WILL BE MADE UNTIL COMPLETION OF US-SRV NORMALIZATION TALKS. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REP IN HANOI REPORTS NO ACTION ON LIST OF 200 AMERICAN DEPENDENTS TRANSMITTED EARLIER TO VIETNAMESE RED CROSS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, TWO CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, BASED IN HONG KONG, VISITED HANOI JUNE 4-8 TO DISCUSS CANADIAN IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES WITH SRV OFFICIALS. THEY WERE MET BY SRV FONMIN OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTH AMERICAN, DUONG MINH AND NGUYEN THE DANG, WHO ARRANGED THEIR SCHEDULE IN VIETNAM.
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2. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DISUCSSIONS WERE HELD WITH FONMIN DEPUTY CHIEF OF CONSULAR DIVISION MADAM NGUYEN THI HAI, WHO FILLED IN FOR DIVISION CHIEF, MR VU, REPORTEDLY IN PARIS FOR THE US-SRV TALKS. AFTER REPEATED ASSERTIONS THAT THEY HAD NOT COME TO INTERVIEW FOUR VIETNAMESE WHOM SRV ATTEMPTED TO SEND

OUT ON AIR FRANCE IN EARLY MAY (SEE REF B), THE CANADIANS FINALLY WERE PERMITTED TO DISCUSS PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, ALBEIT WITH LITTLE SUCCESS.

3. WITH REGARD TO INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS, MADAME HAI WENT BACK ON EARLIER VIETNAMESE COMMITMENTS, AND RULED OUT CANADIAN TRAVEL TO SAIGON, EXPLAINING THAT THE SOUTH WAS "NOT YET SECURE." MADAME HAI AGREED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERVIEWS BEING GIVEN AT A TIME AND PLACE DESIGNATED BY THE SRV.

4. CONCERNING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, THE SRV DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF ASSURED THE CANADIANS THAT VIETNAM POSSESSES THE FINEST MEDICAL FACILITIES POSSIBLE AND THAT EXAMINATIONS COULD BE HELD IN THESE FACILITIES. MADAME HAI FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE CANADIANS REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS FOR OLDER APPLICANTS WHO WERE BEING PERMITTED TO DEPART FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND SAID SHE WOULD CONSIDER A CANADIAN REQUEST TO ALL CANADIAN DOCTORS TO VISIT THE MEDICAL FACILITIES THAT WOULD BE USED FOR IMMIGRANT EXAMINATIONS.

5. MADAME HAI REPEATED THE SRV GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE (REPORTED IN REF C) THAT SPONSORS FOR INTENDING IMMIGRANTS BE CLEARED BY THE SRV EMBASSY IN OTTAWA. THIS REQUEST WAS REJECTED BY THE CANADIANS.

6. MADAME HAI NOTED THAT PERSONS WHO HAD COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE OR WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GVN OR WHO WERE AMONG THE YOUTH NEEDED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE VIETNAM.

7. MADAME HAI AGREED THAT THE SRV WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS (SUCH AS BIRTH CERTIFICATES, MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES, ETC.) AND PASSPORTS.

8. CANADIANS DEPARTED WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE CLEARLY NOT PREPARED FOR LARGE-SCALE PROCESSING OF VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA AND WOULD PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO ESTABLISH ANY PRECEDENT WITH THE CANADIANS AS LONG AS THE US-SRV TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS.

9. THE CANADIAN OFFICIALS MET WITH ROLAND DUC, THE ICRC OFFICIAL IN HANOI, WHO INFORMED THEM THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THE LIST OF 200 AMERICAN

DEPENDENTS WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE RED CROSS.

10. DURING THEIR VISIT TO HANOI, THE CANADIANS NOTED CONTINUED CONCERN OVER THE PLAGUE OUTBREAK AND OBSERVED THAT IN SOME CASES VIETNAMESE PREVENTIVE ACTION WAS ALMOST AS DANGEROUS AS THE DISEASE ITSELF. TWO AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS DEVELOPED INFECTED ARMS AFTER VIETNAMESE PLAGUE VACCINATIONS AND THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S ARM BECAME SO INFECTED THAT IT HAD TO BE DRAINED DAILY. HANOI DIPLOMATIC RUMORS HAVE IT THAT THE DISEASE STARTED WHEN A PLAGUE-INFECTED RAT DROWNED IN ONE OF THE LOCAL BEER VATS WHICH CAUSED THE CANADIANS TO FOREGO BEER DURING THE TRIP.
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